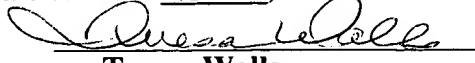


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Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA, on **November 12th, 2004.**


Teresa Walls



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Fred S. Miller, et al.

Serial No.: 09/394,159

Filing Date: September 13, 1999

For: **SOLID PHASE MICROEXTRACTION
DEVICE USING AEROGEL**

Examiner: I. Cintins

Group Art Unit: 1724

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
MAILED October 20, 2004**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 20, 2004, the status identifier for Claim 1 is described as "Previously Presented" because the amendment was previously made in applicants response of Dec. 12, 2003 please amend the above-identified application in the following manner: